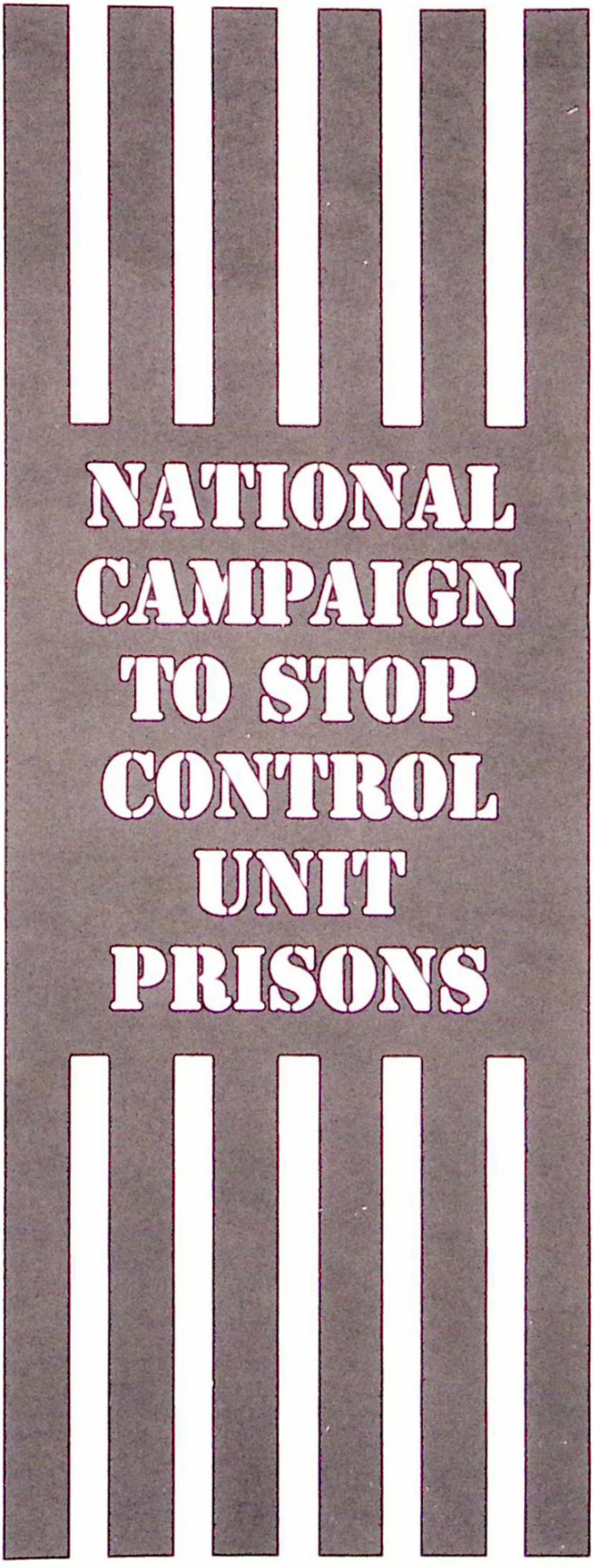

NATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
TO STOP
CONTROL
UNIT
PRISONS

PURPOSE

The National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons is engaged in collecting data, educating, fostering public awareness, and acting to put an end to human rights abuses that occur daily in control units. The campaign's goal is to shut down all control units.

HISTORY OF CONTROL UNIT PRISONS

Solitary confinement in U.S. prisons began in 1829, based on the early Quaker religious philosophy that solitary introspection would lead to penitence and reform. It soon became evident that people in isolation often suffer mental breakdown. Thus, the general practice of isolation in U.S. prisons was abandoned. However, isolation as a means of control has continued. This method has been used to break people identified by the government as "the worst of the worst." In fact, often these people have been political prisoners, jailhouse lawyers, or others who resist the control of the state.

The abuse of isolation has more recently been combined with sinister behavioral modification programs, including physical beatings, medical neglect, and psychological abuse. In 1972, the first official control unit was opened in Marion Federal Prison in Illinois. This was an experimental project undertaken to develop a program specifically designed to break individuals. In 1983, the entire prison at Marion was "locked down," an action in which all prisoners are locked in their cells 24 hours a day without human contact. Ostensibly, this was done in response to an isolated incident of violence in the prison. The lock-down was never lifted.

In 1995, a new federal, high-tech prison in Florence, Colorado, took over the "mission" of Marion. Here people are kept in nearly total isolation for years. There is little interaction with anyone other than prison staff. Visits and phone calls from family and friends are severely restricted, as are educational, recreation, and religious services. The federal model of control has been adopted by other states, so now there are 36 control unit prisons in the United States, housing approximately 15,000 people.

But there have been successes in the fight against control units. In 1989, the women's small-group isolation prison at Lexington, Kentucky, designed specifically for women political prisoners, was closed by legal, political, and moral battles waged by a broad coalition of people. Today, there is no "official" women's control unit prison. However, women in the federal prison at Marrianna, Florida, and in many state prisons are experiencing increasingly repressive conditions. Public oversight of prisons is essentially nonexistent. Abuses of power by the prison officials are endemic. For this reason, a resistance movement is building to call for an end to human rights abuses and the use of control units as a tool of racism and political repression.

HOW WE DEFINE *CONTROL UNIT*

While the specific conditions in control unit prisons vary, the goal of these units is to disable prisoners through spiritual, psychological, and/or physical breakdown. This goal is accomplished through systematic programs of oppression, including:

- **Arbitrary placement** not based on pre-established standards and procedures.
- **Years of isolation** from both prison and outside communities while being housed in solitary or small group isolation.
- **Extremely limited access to services** such as education, worship, or vocational training.
- **Physical torture** such as forced cell extractions, strap-downs, hog-tying, beating after restraint, and provocation of violence between prisoners.
- **Mental torture** such as sensory deprivation, forced idleness, verbal harassment, mail tampering, disclosure of confidential information, confessions forced under torture, and threats against family visitors.
- **Sexual intimidation and violence,** usually against women prisoners by male guards, using strip searches, verbal sexual harassment, sexual touching, and rape as a means of control.

FORMATION OF THE CAMPAIGN

The National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons is a coalition of individuals and groups inside and outside prison walls. The coalition was founded at a gathering hosted by the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia in December 1994.

STRUCTURE

The national campaign is formed as a coalition of independent groups and individuals who agree to carry out specific activities to achieve the stated purposes. To facilitate this, the activities of the campaign will be conducted by several committees, two of which are:

Monitoring Committee

Identifies and monitors Control Unit Prisons, collecting data, creating practical inside-outside bridges, and involving community members. The information collected will

be important for keeping track of abuse and future litigation. Regional coordinators of the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisions are:

Christie Donner, Midwest. Rocky Mountain Peace Center, 1523 6th St., Boulder, CO 80302, telephone: (303) 449-2543. Region includes Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Arkansas, and Kansas.

Corey Weinstein, West. P.O. Box 2218, Berkeley, CA 94702. Region includes Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Hawai'i, Alaska, California, Oregon, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

Colin Starger, East. P.O. Box 569, New York, NY 10163, telephone: (212) 677-8290. Region includes New Jersey, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, and Vermont.

Political Action Committee

Members meet, plan, and carry out activities that will forward our stated purposes. Emphasis is placed on building the capacity for effective protest, publicity, emergency response, or direct action. Prisoners in control unit prisons are encouraged to participate.

For more information on this committee, call: Nozomi Ikuta at (216) 736-3263, Edelle Corring at (303) 444-6523, or Kom'Boa Ervin at (404) 524-2147.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

We are currently making connections with groups and individuals across the United States who are interested in helping us monitor and oppose control units. The following are several ways people can get in touch:

Emergency Response Network

This consists of a telephone tree and e-mail. For more information, contact: Nancy Kirshan, Committee to End the Marion Lockdown, P.O. Box 578172, Chicago, IL 60657.

National Coordination

Bonnie Kerness of the American Friends Service Committee is the national coordinator responsible for organizing and internal mailings. She may be reached at AFSC, 972 Broad St., Sixth Floor, Newark, NJ 07102, telephone: (201) 643-3192.

Mailings

Pat Clark of the American Friends Service Committee is responsible for national mailings. She may be reached at AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, telephone: (215) 241-7130.

Published by the National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons

COUNCIL 47 AFSCME UNION LABEL

NOVEMBER 1995

T/SOR/49/5/2/4

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP CONTROL UNIT PRISONS

control unit review ... mere formality

received my classification notice
and here's what the fascists had to say:
tho' you appear to have made some progress
after review of your case, MCU is where you stay

we have gathered confidential information
from our reliable, phantom informant
so, get used to your present location - isolation
control units help the Revolutionary mind become dormant

we know you're either a leader or sympathizer
of a clandestine, terroristic, prison cartel
our proof? we just know that you are
and with that, for 23-hours a day your ass will be in a cell

information indicates you're bent on causing disruption
like injury & death; and of trying to escape
so, this is it, end of discussion
guards! guards! take this trouble maker away

wait! we know some will say your placement is racist
but this is absolutely untrue
you're here because you're a terrorist
just look around, we suppress white revolutionaries, too

you can take it like a man or cry like a baby
but it doesn't matter - your fate is sealed
so, convict, see you in ninety
by the way, you have seven days to appeal

@1993 gene jones
@1996 Rev.

MARCH 13, 1996

FEBRUARY 4, 1996 BEGINS MY 11TH YEAR IN THIS PIT OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AND SENSORY DEPRIVATION. I HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG AND, IN FACT, HAVEN'T BEEN CHARGED WITH ANY INFRACTION. YET I LIVE IN A CAGE DESIGNED FOR MY MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK, YEAR AFTER YEAR. I AM ALLOWED OUTSIDE, WEATHER PERMITTING ONCE EVERY OTHER DAY FOR 2 HOURS AND I AM ALLOWED TWO 15 MINUTE TELEPHONE CALLS PER DAY. ASIDE FROM THE FEW WINDOW VISITS I GET, THAT IS THE EXTENT OF MY HUMAN CONTACT OTHER THAN GUARDS. WHEN I DO GET OUT, I AM HANDCUFFED, SHACKLED AND STRIP SEARCHED.

THE TREATMENT THAT I HAVE RECEIVED FOR OVER A DECADE IS AS A RESULT OF WHO I AM AND WHAT I BELIEVE. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY ACT THAT I HAVE COMMITTED. I LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL BRUTALITY OF SAVAGE PROPORTION REIGNS AND IT IS PAST TIME THAT, THE PUBLIC LEARNS ABOUT THIS - AND RESPONDS TO IT.

HOW DO I EXPLAIN DESPERATION TO ONE WHO IS NOT DESPERATE? HOW TO I GO ABOUT ARTICULATING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS OF KNOWING THAT PEOPLE ARE WAITING ON ME TO SELF-DESTRUCT? I WAKE UP WITH THE SAME FEELING THAT I WENT TO SLEEP WITH....THAT SENSE OF DESPERATION IS ALWAYS THERE, PLAYING ME CLOSE.....TRY TO IMAGINE LIVING IN A ROOM THE SIZE OF YOUR BATHROOM. I AM SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD BY A STEEL DOOR WHICH BLOCKS OUT EVEN THE NOISE OF OTHER HUMAN BEINGS. THERE ARE TIMES THE SILENCE IS EERIE AND WEIGHS JUST AS SURELY AS THE YOLKS THEY USED TO PUT AROUND THE NECKS OF THE SLAVES WHO CAME BEFORE ME.

TRY TO IMAGINE THE STRESS OF KEEPING ONESELF BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY HEALTHY IN A PLACE WHERE PHYSICAL MOVEMENT IS COMPLETELY LIMITED, WHERE THERE IS LITTLE STIMULATION EXCEPT ONES OWN THOUGHTS, AND WHERE EVEN EATING DOESN'T BRING ANY RELIEF BECAUSE THE FOOD IS OF SUCH POOR NUTRITIONAL QUALITY. TRY TO IMAGINE COPING WITH THIS DAY AFTER ENDLESS DAY FOR ALMOST 11 YEARS.....

I BRING THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE GATHERED TODAY TO HEAR THIS TESTIMONY MY PROFOUND THANKS AND GREETINGS. I ALSO BRING YOU MY RAGE AND THE COLLECTIVE RAGE OF THE THOUSANDS OF US WHO HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR THIS RACIST AND UNCONSCIONABLE TREATMENT. AND IT IS RACIST. HERE IN THE MANAGEMENT CONTROL UNIT IN NEW JERSEY, RADICAL AFRIKANS, FORMER BLACK LIBERATION ARMY MEMBERS, MILITANT ISLAMIC BROTHERS AND JAILHOUSE LAWYERS ARE THE ONES WHO ARE PLACED IN THESE SENSORY DEPRIVATION CAGES. IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY IT IS PUERTO RICANS FIGHTING FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY, MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT AND MEMBERS OF OTHER PROGRESSIVE CAUSES - ALMOST ALL PEOPLE OF COLOR. CLEARLY, WE ARE IN THESE HOUSES OF HORROR NOT FOR REASONS HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH "SECURITY", BUT FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

BY VIRTUE OF YOUR PARTICIPATION TODAY, I AM COMFORTABLE THAT MANY OF YOU EITHER UNDERSTAND OR HAVE A CURIOSITY ABOUT THE OPPRESSION THAT PEOPLE OF COLOR ARE ENDURING IN THESE CONDITIONS, THESE SECRET PRISONS WITHIN PRISONS, THESE TERRORDOMES. MANY OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THESE ISOLATION UNITS IN NEW JERSEY AND AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE VISIONARIES WHO THE GOVERNMENT HAS ATTEMPTED TO BUILD A WALL OF SILENCE AROUND. WE LIVE IN A WAR WHICH WE KNOW IS BEING PERPETRATED AGAINST US, AND WE FIGHT AGAINST THE RESTLESSNESS, THE STREET SICKNESS, THE BOREDOM AND THE SILENCE OF BEING ENTOMBED IN

steel and concrete.

The growing use of such tactics is not new. The oppression and torture is part of the history of revolutions and evolutions, part of the history of Afrikans in this country and part of the history of the prison movement. This use of isolation to silence political dissidents must stop, and these Hearings are part of this effort.

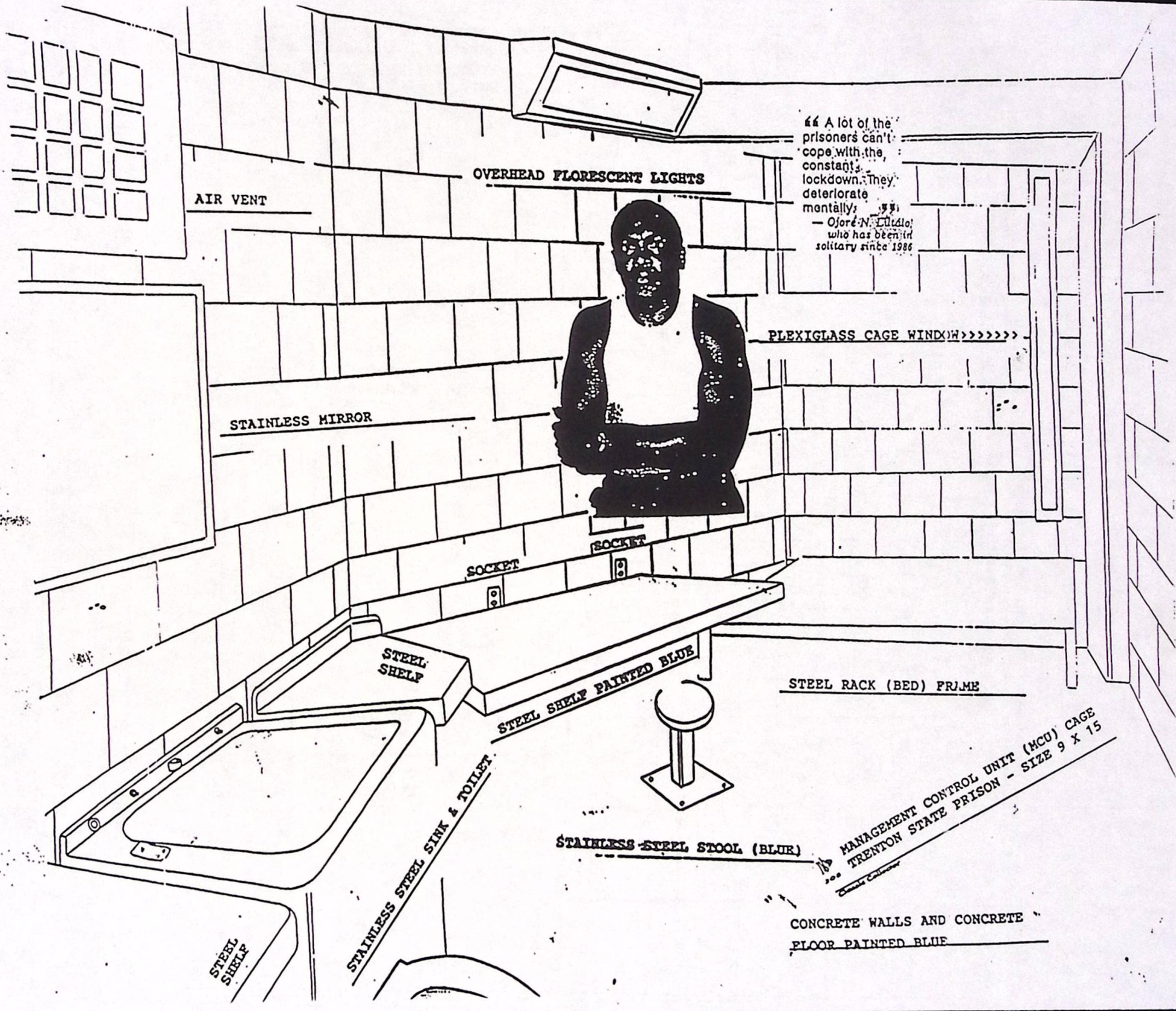
Be clear that I do not belong here. That I am here because of who I am and what I believe. And that is exactly why your involvement is as important to you as it is to me. Angela Davis put it well. She said that "If they come for me in the morning, they'll come for you at night".

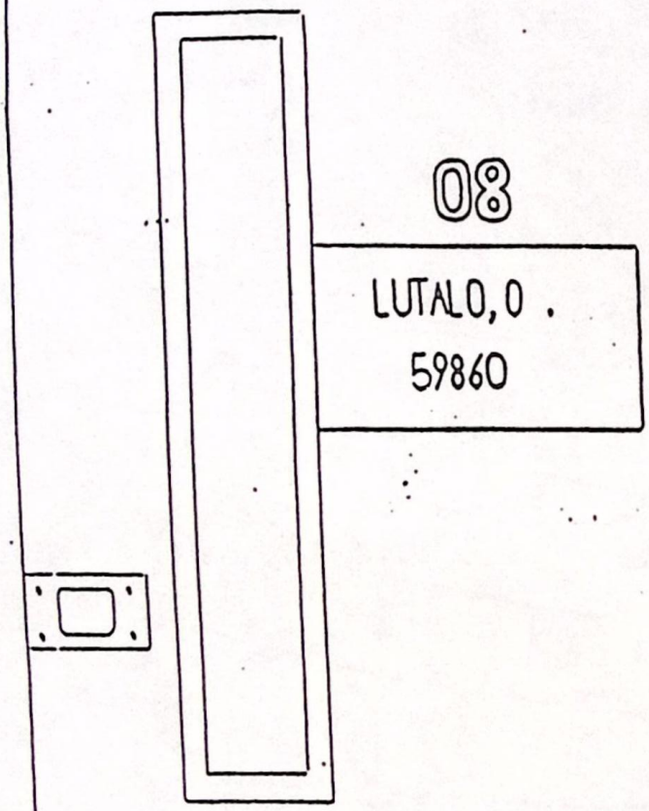
Another man also said it equally as well. Pastor Martin Niemoller noted that:

"In Germany, they came first for the Communists
And I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.
Then they came and got the Jews
And I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.
And then they came for the trade unionists,
And I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Catholics,
And I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.
Then they came for me,
And by that time, no one was left to speak up."

Thank you.

Ojore Nuru Lutalo
March 20, 1996


"A lot of the prisoners can't cope with the constant lockdown. They deteriorate mentally."
— Ojore N. Lutalo, who has been in solitary since 1986
OVERHEAD FLORESCENT LIGHTS
AIR VENT
PLEXIGLASS CAGE WINDOW
STAINLESS MIRROR
SOCKET
SOCKET
STEEL SHELF
STEEL SHELF PAINTED BLUE
STEEL RACK (BED) FRAME
STAINLESS STEEL STOOL (BLUE)
MANAGEMENT CONTROL UNIT (MCU) CAGE
TRENTON STATE PRISON - SIZE 9 X 15
STAINLESS STEEL SINK & TOILET
STEEL SHELF
CONCRETE WALLS AND CONCRETE FLOOR PAINTED BLUE



CLOSED OUTSIDE DOOR OF CONTROL UNIT CAGE (BLUE) WITH PLEXIGLASS WINDOW.

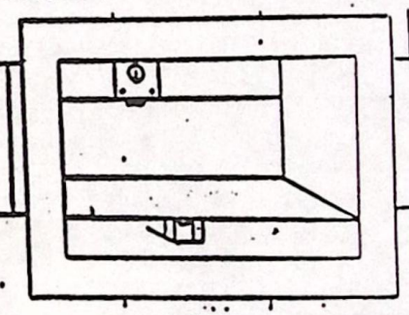
Classic Collector

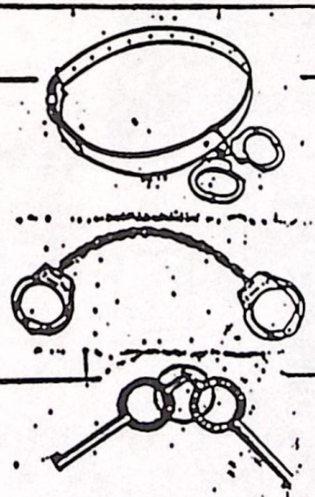
ELECTRIC SLIDING DOOR THAT IS OPEN AND CLOSED BY GUARDS IN THE BOOTH.

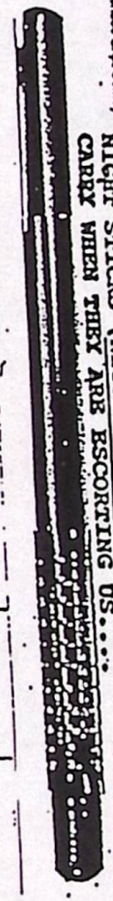
Classic Collector SUNDAY - JULY 16TH - 1995

PORTHOLE ADJACENT TO STEEL SHELF IN SIDE CAGE WHERE WE EXTEND OUR HANDS TO BE HANDCUFFED BEFORE COMING OUT!

Classic Collector







NIGHT STICKS (NIGGER BEATERS) GUARDS CARRY WHEN THEY ARE ESCORTING US....

Plastic NIGHT STICKS with Grenade Grip. Comes complete with leather thong.

for fear of radical ideologies

> "A lot of the prisoners can't cope with the constant lockdown. They deteriorate mentally."
> — *Ojore N. Lutalo, who has been in solitary since 1986*

lasses and group activities among risoners remained curtailed.

Upset about the change in conditions, about 200 inmates met in n exercise yard to consider a protest. Though the inmates said they eached no consensus, the meeting led prison administrators to counter the chance of further trouble by segregating their leaders.

Alan R. Hoffman, then the superintendent of the Trenton prison, said the unit was established to thwart a "minority of people who are going to stir the pot all the time." In October 1976, the inmates lost a lawsuit challenging the fairness of the establishment of the unit when a federal judge said the MCU was a legal way to keep order in the prison.

MCUs have existed at other prisons. During the 1980s, Cubans who came to the United States in the Mariel boat lift and were later convicted of crimes were placed in MCUs in Trenton, at Bayside State, State Prison in Leesburg, and at East Jersey State Prison in Woodbridge because officials feared they planned violent demonstrations.

Other states have similar units, said Robert B. Levinson, special projects manager for the American Correctional Association. "This type of management of disruptive inmates is not unusual," Levinson said.

But human rights groups are worried about the spread of "prisons within prisons" such as the MCU. Human Rights Watch, a group that monitors prison conditions around the world, calls the trend "Marionization," after a federal prison in Illinois where more than 300 inmates live in solitary confinement.

Today, New Jersey's only MCU is at New Jersey State, a prison that houses 2,200 of the state's most troublesome inmates — those with severe mental problems, the severely ill, those considered escape risks, and those starting long prison terms. The emphasis is on security and order. After the 1990 assaults, Beyer ordered all guards to wear riot gear when they deal with groups of inmates.

The MCU's four cellblocks are of standard prison design: each has two levels of 12 cells, arranged in an L shape. The cells face a large open area with tables.

One noticeable feature is that the table area is enclosed by chain-link fencing. Beyer calls these "multipurpose activity modules." The inmates call them cages, and they have refused to use them for group meals or recreation, which they would be allowed one or two evenings a week.

"It's degrading," said Lumumba. "It's something for dogs." So the inmates eat in their cells, and forgo the chance to leave the cells for socializing or playing cards or chess.

MCU inmates are allowed five hours of outdoor recreation and two visits each week. Like other inmates, they are allowed to have radios and TV sets in their cells; some have typewriters or personal computers, which they use to write political pamphlets or to prepare appeals of their convictions.

Inmates say the MCU is much quieter than other prison housing. Reading is a popular pastime. Roberts said he's had time to read books he wouldn't have gotten to outside of prison, including political tracts by Thomas Hobbes and Adam Smith, as well as Sidney Sheldon novels. "Generally, the men they commit to this unit have pretty good minds," he said.

The inmates' mail, magazines, and books are censored for ideas prison officials deem dangerous. Lutalo, who does not belong to the ANU, has had copies of Soldier of Fortune magazine and books on firearms and paramilitary training confiscated. Other censored materials seem more innocuous — such as an ANU pamphlet on African history, and newsletters of radical political groups.

What's wrong with segregating violent criminals on the basis of their political and religious beliefs?

"I think it is a central threat to human rights," said Bonnie Kerness, who works in the New Jersey office of the American Friends Service Committee, the social action arm of the Quaker church. "It's arbitrary state power, and there is nothing anybody can do about it. There is something fundamentally wrong with that."

"A good number of these guys are going to be let out, and we are going to have to deal with them," said Bomse. "If you treat somebody like an animal, does it surprise you that he doesn't treat people like humans when he gets out of prison?"

Beyer said that since the MCU curbs violence, he is not worried about the complaints of inmate advocates. "We will keep it open and filled as long as the need is there and continues to exist," he said. "Just like out on the street, there are a few bad apples that have to be dealt with."

T|SOR|49|5|2|4

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN REGION
New Jersey Community Relations Program
972 Broad Street, 6th Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102
201/643-3079 FAX 201/643-8924

Wray Bailey, Director Bonnie Kerness, Associate Director

CONTROL UNITS: ISOLATION IN 1992

In 1975, after the tumultuous years of the civil rights movement the Vietnam War and the prisoners' rights movement, Trenton State Prison in New Jersey established an administrative isolation unit for politically dissident prisoners. The Management Control Unit, which now has 96 beds, houses those prisoners who have not broken institutional rules, but who are, as a result of their convictions and expressions, seen to be a threat by the prison administrators. This unit isolates activists and leaders from the prison's general population, as it attempts to reshape their convictions by subjecting them to an extraordinary level of physical control and sensory deprivation. Prisoners in the MCU are denied all the collective activities of normal prison life, face increased surveillance by guards who record their daily activities and regularly search cells and their persons, and suffer the physical abuse of strip searches by guards in riot-gear which accompany all recreation and visits. A physical cage has been built on each tier for any activity, such as a hearing or a haircut, which must take place outside the cell.

Although confinement in the Management Control Unit is not defined as punitive, the severe limitations placed upon visits and telephone contact with family members, as well as recreation, and the denial of work, education, law library access, collective religious practice and the fellowship of other prisoners can hardly be seen in any other way. Correspondence and reading materials are carefully scrutinized and many political publications, specifically those with Afro-centric content, are excluded. These conditions are indefinite, although they are reviewed each 90 days, and are imposed without judicial supervision or benefit of counsel.

The United States prison system has developed this strategy to evade the Eighth Amendment prohibitions on cruel and unusual punishment by reproducing the model of the Federal Correctional Institution at Marion, Illinois. In 1983, after two guards were killed by prisoners at this high security prison, the warden of FCI Marion declared a state of emergency and instituted a lock-down, or solitary confinement for all prisoners. The Bureau of Prisons brought in 60 riot control officers to 'restore order.' They wore helmets, masks and no identification tags, and carried clubs with steel beads, called 'rib-spreaders.' The guards still carry these weapons, and the lockdown continues today, after nine years.

The particular history of the MCU in New Jersey is echoed across the country as state and federal prison administrators use the Marion model to extend and develop their own local Control Units. New York and Indiana are two states whose Control Unit prisons have been the sites of protest, within the walls and in the streets. In 1992, every state either has constructed or is planning a prison or a unit within a prison based upon the Marion model; these are called Control Units. In their 1991 report, Prison Conditions in the United States, Human Rights Watch found:

"Perhaps the most troubling aspect of the human rights situation in US prisons is a trend we observed that could be labeled "Marionization".... 36 states have followed suit in creating their own super maximum security institutions. The confinement in maxi-maxis is administered by prison officials without independent supervision and leads to a situation in which inmates may in fact be sentenced twice: once by the court to a certain period of imprisonment; and the second time, by the prison administration, to particularly harsh conditions. This second sentencing is open-ended - limited only by the overall length of an inmate's sentence - and is imposed without the benefit of counsel."

Prison administrators are well pleased with the Marion model, despite its expense. In March of 1990 Marion employed 369 uniformed guards for a population of 373, at a cost which was several times the national average. The Bureau of Prisons is now building a new Level 6 Control Unit, in a prison complex in Florence, Colorado, to hold 550 men with all the advances in physical control new technology can offer. The Justice Department was recently forced to deny publically that they intend to feed prisoners in Florence with robots. All Control Units and Control Unit prisons have a high staff to prisoner ratio and are expensive to operate. The regimen of the Control Units and the absence of due process have been upheld by the courts as regulation not punishment.

The fact that the men in the Management Control Unit at New Jersey State Prison are strip searched whenever they leave their cells, even when there is no contact with anyone but prison staff, and that they are held in restraints and handcuffs for intra-prison hearings is but one example of the arbitrary use of punitive measures. Control Units are clearly punishment, arguably torture, and they embody the central threat to human rights the constitution was intended to check: arbitrary state power. The men of the MCU are held in conditions very close to those of prisoners condemned to death: the New Jersey Community Relations Program of the American Friends Service Committee calls upon humanists and Friends alike to put an end to the use of isolation in imprisonment.

Join us for a TOWN MEETING and SILENT VIGIL at 11:30AM on Saturday May 2, 1992 at the Bethlehem Baptist Church, 439 Centre Street in Trenton, New Jersey. Call Bonnie Kerness at AFSC, (201-643-3192) for information or transportation.

SATURDAY
AUGUST 17, 1991
25 cents
★ ★

The Times

Serving the New Jersey capital region for more than a century

SUNNY, HUMID
High 88, low 72
Showers possible tomorrow
Details/A2

'Modules' or 'cages'? TSP enclosures stir protest

By PETER PAGE
Staff Writer

TRENTON — The administration of Trenton State Prison calls them "activity modules" and regards them as a safer way of controlling especially dangerous prisoners in the state's toughest prison.

The inmates in the Management Control Unit call them "cages" and believe the only purpose they have is to punish prisoners for their political beliefs.

At the center of the dispute are enclosures, measuring 15 feet by 15 feet, made of tubular steel and chain-link fencing with a double-door entry system.

On the orders of prison Administrator Howard Beyer, the 71 inmates in the MCU must enter the modules for group meals, indoor recreation, haircuts, meetings with counselors and classes.

But prisoners refuse to step inside the modules and it is costing them the few privileges they have.

"This is something to depict to society that we are animals," said Daud Tulam, who has been confined in the MCU since 1985. "They put these cages in, presumably, to keep us from having any contact with guards or civilians. That further animalizes us."

Gary Hilton, the assistant Department of Corrections commissioner responsible for adult institutions, said the boycott of the modules has been nearly unanimous.

"The overriding majority of inmates have refused to use them," said Hilton. "There have been isolated incidents where inmates used them but the great majority has not."

ASIDE FROM two hours of outdoor recreation every other day, the minimum required by law, MCU inmates are seldom out of their cells.

According to corrections department spokeswoman Patricia Mulcahey, the MCU prisoners are allowed, in groups of six men, 90 minutes of indoor recreation every fourth night. Every fourth day, rather than eating in their cells, the inmates are allowed meals together in groups of six. The boycott is keeping the men in their cells almost constantly.

"We are giving up educational opportunities, recreational privileges, the chance to congregate and eat to-

• see MODULES, A5

Modules

• continued from A1

gether," said Quincey Spruell, an inmate for six years who was transferred to the MCU on June 1. "All of our unit activities are centered around the cage, so we have given up all the privileges we had."

The inmates think it is no coincidence that the modules were installed in early June, just as the population of the MCU nearly doubled following a sweep of the prison to remove suspected members of the Afrikan National Uprising, a black nationalist group the prison administration accused of plotting escapes and violent uprisings aimed at killing staff and taking hostages.

"We think they have launched an offensive against black prisoners under the guise of this ANU conspiracy," said inmate Clifford Roberts, who has spent the past three years in MCU. "We can't just declare, based on skin color, that one prisoner has a greater propensity to disruption than any other."

According to Mulcahey, of the 71 inmates in MCU, 64 are black, four are white and three are Hispanics.

HILTON SEES no significance to the preponderance of black inmates in the unit. Blacks make up about two-thirds of the prison's approximately 2,300 inmates.

"The MCU is for those inmates who are a threat to the safety of the institution. There are ANU members who — we see that way," he said. "They have a potential for violence and disorder, whether through their own personal conduct or their ability to orchestrate others."

Both Hilton and the inmates agree on one point — the Trenton prison has become more restrictive overall since the Aug. 10, 1990, assault on seven corrections officers, one of whom was nearly killed by seven stab wounds to the chest.

"It is a more closely managed institution," Hilton said. "We have made some changes so we are in a better position to respond to untoward incidents."

Some of the changes have obvious security purposes, such as the installation of additional observation booths in the mess hall and the positioning of corrections officers in riot gear to oversee prisoner movements. Other changes, like the activity modules, seem to MCU inmates to be purely punitive. For instance, last Monday the prison administration reduced from 2½ to 12 the number of MCU prisoners allowed to take yard exercise at one time.

"Social communication is what keeps a man balanced and sane," said Tulam. "To have only contact with those 24 guys and then have that contact marginalized, yeah, I'd say it is significant."

Hilton said the inmate boycott has not changed the administration's mind about the modules.

"If they don't like the modules and choose to express that by not using them, I compliment them on that," Hilton said. "It is a far better form of expression than doing something violent or untoward."

JUSTICE/INJUSTICE

A PROJECT TO BENEFIT THE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6 6-9pm

puffin room - ART OPENING
ART AGAINST DEATH: THE ART AND WRITINGS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS with "freeworld"...
Speakers: Leonard Weinglass, Attorney for Mumia Abu-Jamal; Mary Taylor, activist to free political prisoners
Poets: Hon. Bruce Wright, CVGSheba, Bob Holman
Artists: Leon Golub, Nancy Spero, Howardena Pindell, Marina Gutierrez, Mel Edwards, Jerry Kearns, Kiki Smith, Lloyd Oxendine, Arlan Huang, Juan Sanchez, Kamran Ashtary, Irving Epstein, Juane Quick-To-See Smith

THURSDAY OCTOBER 12 8:30-10:30pm

puffin room - POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.
Panelists: CVGSheba, Black Panther Newspaper Committee; former prisoner of war
Alan Berkman, M.D., former political prisoner
Herman and Betty Liveright, coordinators of *This Just In...*, Bulletin for News of Political Prisoners and POWs
Richie Perez, ex-Young Lord; National Coordinator for the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15 3-6pm

NUYORICAN POETS CAFE - ART OPENING
ART AGAINST DEATH: THE ART AND WRITINGS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS with "freeworld"...
Speakers: Ramona Africa, MOVE, former political prisoner; Mary Taylor, activist to free political prisoners
Musician: Joseph Jarman
Poets: Hettie Jones, Fielding Dawson, CVGSheba, Sandra Maria Esteves
Visual arts project funded in memory of Alicia Wilkes

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19 8:30-10:30pm

puffin room - CONFRONTING THE DEATH PENALTY
Panelists: Lawrence Hayes, M.P.S., former death row prisoner, anti-death penalty advocate
Chuck Culhane, former death row prisoner, poet, teacher
Leonard Weinglass, Attorney for Mumia Abu-Jamal
Linda Thurston, Director, Amnesty International USA Program to Abolish the Death Penalty
Demi McGuire, Executive Director, New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty
Robert Meeropol, Executive Director, Rosenberg Fund for Children; son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg
Ronald Tabak, President, New York Lawyers Against the Death Penalty

THURSDAY OCTOBER 26 8:30-10:30pm

puffin room - WOMEN IN PRISON
Panelists: Rev. Connie M. Baugh, national campaign organizer of Mothers In Prison, Children in Crisis
Vivian, former incarcerated mother
Nieves Ayress, former political prisoner, Chile
Natalie Bimel, Director, Health Link, Hunter College Center on AIDS, Drugs and Community Health

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2 8:30-10:30pm

puffin room - THE "WAR ON CRIME": THE POLITICS OF INCARCERATION
Panelists: Hon. Bruce Wright, New York State Supreme Court Justice, retired; author of *Black Robes, White Justice*
Richard Stratton, Editor-in-Chief *Prison Life* magazine; writer, former prisoner
Eddie Ellis, former Black Panther and political prisoner; Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
Bonnie Kerness, M.S.W., Coordinator, National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons; Assoc. Dir., A.F.S.C. of NJ

Moderators: Safiya Bukhari, WBAI Radio; Chair, NY Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition
Sally O'Brien, WBAI Radio; journalist

JUSTICE/INJUSTICE organized and curated by Lisa Fromartz and Ronald Hunnings

Donation $5 • Reservations Recommended for Panels 212•343•2881

puffin room • 435 Broome St. (Bdway), NYC 10013 Gallery Hours: Wed.-Sun. 12-6pm 212•343•
NUYORICAN POETS CAFE • 236 E 3 St. (B & C), NYC 10009 Gallery Hours by Appointment 212•505•

The least controversial observation that one can make about the U.S. criminal justice system is that it is remarkably ineffective, absurdly expensive, grossly inhumane, and riddled with racism. The beating of Rodney King and the OJ trial are a reminder of the ruthlessness and racism that characterize many big city police departments. Our sentencing practices have led to the imprisonment of over one and a half million people, with another 3 and a half million under other forms of social control. It should not come as any surprise that the greatest percentage of people that end up in our prisons, are people of color.

For the last 20 years I have been a human rights advocate in the prison movement. It has become glaringly clear to me that, just as there were economic and political functions of slavery, so are there economic and political function of prisons. I don't believe it is any accident that the overall crime rate according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics between 1980 and 1990, remained stable while the overall imprisonment rate went up 112%. Nor do I believe it's any accident that youth of color are being fed into the prison system through the cooperation of the police and the court systems. Imprisonment rates for Black people are about 7.4 times higher than for white folks, with one out of every 3 males of Afikan decent under some form of social control. Depending upon geographic location between 65 and 85% of those the US imprisons are people of color, with our rate of imprisonment of people of African decent being higher than that in the formerly white supremacist country of South Africa. To me, perhaps the only thing more startling than the data about who is in prison and for what, is the impotence of the data. Academicians, criminal justice personnel, advocates and people of color all understand clearly that there is no statistical correlation between crime and imprisonment rates. We also all understand clearly that the criminal justice system actually does work - it works as a matter of both economic and political policy.

Prisons are one of the largest growth industries in the US at this time. Let's take a look at the economics of these houses of pain, as the prisoners call them. We live in an age of automation which does not generate new opportunities for manual work, as technology replaces muscle and nominal skills. Our males of color - most of whom were brought here for the express purpose of labor - have now become useless to the economy of automation. Black males have moved out of a historical state of oppression into one of uselessness in the economic context in this country. They have been discarded as a waste product of the technological revolution, with illegal drugs turning Ghettoized Blacks into virtual invalids just as alcohol was introduced to incapacitate the people of the Native Nations.

I no longer believe that it is by accident that people who are perceived of as economic liabilities have been turned into a major economic asset - for the young male of color who is worth less than nothing in this current economy is suddenly worth over 30 thousand dollars a year once in the so called "justice" system. Nor do I believe it is any accident that this technological revolution has been accompanied by the largest explosion of building prisons in the history of the world. The number of people currently imprisoned in this country in jails and prisons is greater than the number of people who live in 13 states. You can't ignore that the expansion of prisons, parole, probation, the court and police systems has resulted in an enormous bureaucracy with many parasitic defenders. The expansion of the prison system in this country has been a boon to everyone from architects, plumbers and electricians to food vendors, all with one thing in common, a gourmet paycheck earned off the backs of males of color. When I wrote one of my prisoner mentors about speaking here, he noted that just like every welfare kid that's processed

through the welfare system puts food on the table for innumerable counselors, investigators, clerk typists, administrators, accountants, etc., so now this grown up kid is picked over by guards, counselors, administrators, clerk typists and so on - all so they can send their own kids to college. The vested interest of these bureaucracies is intense and well organized. And with the full cooperation of politicians and the media, the public is being sold a "War on Crime" and a "War on Drugs" as the cure for the constantly hawked, yet non-existent rising rate of crime. It is still incredible to me that this country has entire towns where the sole industry is prisons. The prison system spends $74 billion dollars a year. There are a lot of mostly white folks getting paid a lot of money for containing mostly folks of color in cages in human warehouses.

Just as there are economic functions for prisons, so are there political ones. In 1978, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, stated that US prisons held "hundreds, maybe thousands of people I would categorize as political prisoners".The outcry from the government was deafening and Mr. Young was forced to retract his statement. Mr. Young was right. There were then, and there are now, political prisoners held in US prisons.

If you are a young, male of African decent in this country, if you are poor, should you get arrested your bail will be set so high you become an economic hostage. For you, the phrase, "innocent until proven guilty" has little meaning. You will certainly not get a trial by a jury of your peers. You will be defended by a Public Defender who has a caseload so vast that you cannot possibly be treated as a priority, and finally you will serve a sentence which is 30% longer than a white would serve for the same crime. If you have seen this same thing happen to your father, your uncles, your cousins.....if you look around at the broader picture of what is happening to men, women, youth and children of your nationality, it s not hard to conclude there is genocide being committed. When whites first came to the shores of this country, it is estimated that there were between 10 and 100 million people living here in many great nations. Those natives were the first slaves and the first political prisoners, and the first efforts at the decimation of an entire people through genocide.

The definition of genocide according to the United Nations is: a) the killing of members of a racial or religious group b) the causing of serious bodily hard to members of a particular group c) deliberately inflicting on a group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group and e) forcibly transferring children of that group to another group.

If we use this definition, it is not hard to see how the mass imprisonment that is occurring fits that definition. Coupled with data on high infant mortality, early death of the elderly of color, lack of equitable medical treatment, opportunities and education that is afforded to whites - and the realization becomes more compelling. Many of those who are defined and perceived of as political prisoners grew up in a society they feel oppressed them. In the 60's and 70's youth acted anger in a number of ways....native youth formed the American Indian Movement dedicated to the self determination of their people; Puerto Ricans joined the movement to free the island from US colonialism; white students formed the Students for a Democratic Society, other whites worked in the South in the Civil Rights movement - and the Black Panther Party was born. Many of us watched our peers being killed by government forces during that era, which led to the underground formation of the Black Liberation Army to stop the rash of killings of inner city

youth by police.

The government, in response to this massive outcry against social inequities, developed a Counter Intelligence Program called COINTELPRO, which had as its objective the crippling of the Black Panther Party and other radical forces. Over the years that this directive was being carried out, those participating in the Black Panther Party were indeed targeted for imprisonment and assassination. Many of those young people who weren't murdered during that time were put in prisons across the country - and many now in their 40's and 50's are still there 20 years later. In short, we find that during the past three decades there has been a steady increase in the number of people being imprisoned because of their political views and actions.

While the US continues to deny to the world that there are political prisoners within its border, there is no way to work with prisoners for any length of time without hearing repeatedly of the existence of such people - and the treatment they are singled out for once in prison. Across the nation, we have seen the growing us of sensory deprivation/isolation units for such people and it is this "special" treatment which human rights advocates feel a growing concern about. In its report on US prisons, Human Rights Watch notes that "perhaps the most troubling aspect of the human right situation in US prisons is a trend...that could be labelled "Marionization". They talk about confinement administered by prison officials without independent supervision to these "prisons within prisons" which violate the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. These units are an outgrowth of behavior modification theory and are part of a systematic effort to destroy any visible signs of political resistance. The units, called control units, are designed to break the minds of the men and women caged there. If any of you have seen the PBS special called "Through the Wire", you will be familiar with the torture of Susan Rosenberg, Alejandrina Torres and Silvia Baraldini. The courts closed that particular unit permanently but we have hundred of other documented cases in which political people are isolated in these units.

Across the country, if you Afrikanize your name, if you were involved in any progressive political group or action, if you are a militant Islamic a Black Panther, a member of the Black Liberation Army, or believe in independence for Puerto Rico or autonomy of the First Nations, you may be singled out for solitary confinement in a control unit. You don't have to commit any institutional infraction at all. This is not a punishment. You are placed there simply for who you are and what you believe. The former warden of Marion Penitentiary has been openly quoted as saying that the purpose of a control unit is to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and society at large.

Picture the method this country uses to accomplish this. You are placed in a cage in a human warehouse where you will eat, sleep, wash, read, think, and take care of bodily functions. You are there 24 hours a day, day in and day out, year in and year out with no end. The prisoners say that the silence is eerie. There is a steel door between you and the rest of the world. You may be allowed out once every 46 hours for an hour and a half in a concrete yard. You may be allowed one call a day and the call is monitored. Your mail and reading material is censored. If for some reason you have to leave your cell, you are strip searched, which often includes a humiliating anal probe. You are shackled around your waist and handcuffed. You are entirely under the control of prison guards who carry long, black clubs they refer to as "nigger beaters". You remain constantly on the alert for your own mental and physical deterioration.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN REGION
New Jersey Community Relations Program
972 Broad Street, 6th Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102
201/643-3079 FAX 201/643-8924

Wray Bailey, Director Bonnie Kerness, Associate Director

CONTROL UNITS: ISOLATION IN 1992

In 1975, after the tumultuous years of the civil rights movement the Vietnam War and the prisoners' rights movement, Trenton State Prison in New Jersey established an administrative isolation unit for politically dissident prisoners. The **Management Control Unit**, which now has 96 beds, houses those prisoners who have not broken institutional rules, but who are, as a result of their convictions and expressions, seen to be a threat by the prison administrators. This unit isolates activists and leaders from the prison's general population, as it attempts to reshape their convictions by subjecting them to an extraordinary level of physical control and sensory deprivation. Prisoners in the **MCU** are denied all the collective activities of normal prison life, face increased surveillance by guards who record their daily activities and regularly search cells and their persons, and suffer the physical abuse of strip searches by guards in riot-gear which accompany all recreation and visits. A physical cage has been built on each tier for any activity, such as a hearing or a haircut, which must take place outside the cell.

Although confinement in the **Management Control Unit** is not defined as punitive, the severe limitations placed upon visits and telephone contact with family members, as well as recreation, and the denial of work, education, law library access, collective religious practice and the fellowship of other prisoners can hardly be seen in any other way. Correspondence and reading materials are carefully scrutinized and many political publications, specifically those with Afro-centric content, are excluded. These conditions are indefinite, although they are reviewed each 90 days, and are imposed without judicial supervision or benefit of counsel.

The United States prison system has developed this strategy to evade the Eighth Amendment prohibitions on cruel and unusual punishment by reproducing the model of the Federal Correctional Institution at Marion, Illinois. In 1983, after two guards were killed by prisoners at this high security prison, the warden of FCI Marion declared a state of emergency and instituted a lock-down, or solitary confinement for all prisoners. The Bureau of Prisons brought in 60 riot control officers to 'restore order.' They wore helmets, masks and no identification tags, and carried clubs with steel beads, called 'rib-spreaders.' The guards still carry these weapons, and the lockdown continues today, after nine years.

The particular history of the MCU in New Jersey is echoed across the country as state and federal prison administrators use the Marion model to extend and develop their own local Control Units. New York and Indiana are two states whose Control Unit prisons have been the sites of protest, within the walls and in the streets. In 1992, every state either has constructed or is planning a prison or a unit within a prison based upon the Marion model; these are called Control Units. In their 1991 report, Prison Conditions in the United States, **Human Rights Watch** found:

"Perhaps the most troubling aspect of the human rights situation in US prisons is a trend we observed that could be labeled "Marionization".... 36 states have followed suit in creating their own super maximum security institutions. The confinement in maxi-maxis is administered by prison officials without independent supervision and leads to a situation in which inmates may in fact be sentenced twice: once by the court to a certain period of imprisonment; and the second time, by the prison administration, to particularly harsh conditions. This second sentencing is open-ended - limited only by the overall length of an inmate's sentence - and is imposed without the benefit of counsel."

Prison administrators are well pleased with the Marion model, despite its expense. In March of 1990 Marion employed 369 uniformed guards for a population of 373, at a cost which was several times the national average. The Bureau of Prisons is now building a new Level 6 Control Unit, in a prison complex in Florence, Colorado, to hold 550 men with all the advances in physical control new technology can offer. The Justice Department was recently forced to deny publically that they intend to feed prisoners in Florence with robots. All Control Units and Control Unit prisons have a high staff to prisoner ratio and are expensive to operate. The regimen of the Control Units and the absence of due process have been upheld by the courts as regulation not punishment.

The fact that the men in the **Management Control Unit** at New Jersey State Prison are strip searched whenever they leave their cells, even when there is no contact with anyone but prison staff, and that they are held in restraints and handcuffs for intra-prison hearings is but one example of the arbitrary use of punitive measures. Control Units are clearly punishment, arguably torture, and they embody the central threat to human rights the constitution was intended to check: arbitrary state power. The men of the MCU are held in conditions very close to those of prisoners condemned to death: the New Jersey Community Relations Program of the American Friends Service Committee calls upon humanists and Friends alike to put an end to the use of isolation in imprisonment.

Join us for a TOWN MEETING and SILENT VIGIL at 11:30AM on Saturday May 2, 1992 at the Bethlehem Baptist Church, 439 Centre Street in Trenton, New Jersey. Call Bonnie Kerness at AFSC, (201-643-3192) for information or transportation.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP CONTROL UNIT PRISONS

COORDINATOR
Bonnie Kerness

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MONITORING
Christie Donner

POLITICAL ACTION
Nozomi Ikuta

FINANCES
Porter Kirkwood

MEDIA AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS
Pat Clark

REGIONAL
COORDINATORS
Northeast:
Jill Brotman

Southeast:
Kom'boa Ervin

Midwest:
Nancy Kurshan

Northwest:
Corey Weinstein

Southwest:
Edelle Corrine

January 5, 1996

Dear Friend:

As a result of dialogue with a number of different people, Ojore and I have decided that it would be best not to pursue plans for the Ten Year Campaign on his behalf.

The primary reason for this is the very real possibility for the State of New Jersey to banish Ojore to either the Federal system or another State system. New Jersey has a long history of exiling activist prisoners in this way, thus increasing their isolation from family and friends. In one case, an Islamic activist was exiled to Arizona where he was one of few people of color. He suffered not just from being isolated from family and friends, but also from the extreme racism with which he was met.

Many of you receiving this mailing were wonderfully supportive on behalf of this effort, for which we are grateful. Rather than have the Campaign focus on Ojore specifically, we are thinking that a more general protest on behalf of all New Jersey MCU prisoners would be worthwhile.

The proliferation of control units in this country is horrifying. Over 20 years ago, the first control unit was created in an American prison at the United States Penitentiary in Marion, Illinois. This unit, with forced drugging, beatings and physical and mental abuse was meant to crush the will of a prisoner, and make them into a vegetable or corpse. The unit, far from being designed to control the most violent or assaultive prisoners was, instead, designed to rid the system of critics. Revolutionaries, Islamic militants, prisoner unionists, jailhouse lawyers, and others whose only offense was to believe in and struggle for human rights for prisoners were the inhabitants of the unit. Originally concentrated in Marion, these control units, and now entire control unit prison facilities, have spread to 36 States, and the conditions have gotten even more oppressive. Prisoners are put in these units for years on end, never knowing when - or whether - they will ever get out of isolation.

Letters/post cards/faxes/phone calls asking for an investigation into the amount of time that New Jersey prisoners endure enforced isolation in the control unit would be appropriate, as would a

972 Broad Street, 6th Floor · Newark, NJ 07102 · (201) 643-3192

demand for the development of an exit criteria. Once in the control unit, how do people "earn" their way out? So far, in New Jersey, there is no way. Basically, you want to ask both the Governor of the State and the Commissioner of Corrections to look into the continued long term placement there of prisoners who have never been charged with any institutional violations.

The timing of the letters, etc. would remain the same. We want to use the month of February to conduct the blitz of calls, letter, faxes and so on. Write, call or fax:

Governor Christie Whitman
State House
Trenton, N.J. 08625
Phone (609) 292-6000
Fax (609) 292-3454

Comm. William Fauver
Dept. of Corrections
CN-863
Trenton, N.J. 08625
Phone (609) 292-9860
Fax (609) 777-0445

Basically, you want to ask them to look into the existence of the control unit and the continued, enforced isolation of many of the prisoners housed there. You want to note that some prisoners have been there for as long as 10 years. Enclosed you will find "Control Units: Isolation in 1992" which will give you an overview of the MCU. Also enclosed is an exhibit depicting the control unit cage, and a newspaper article on the MCU.

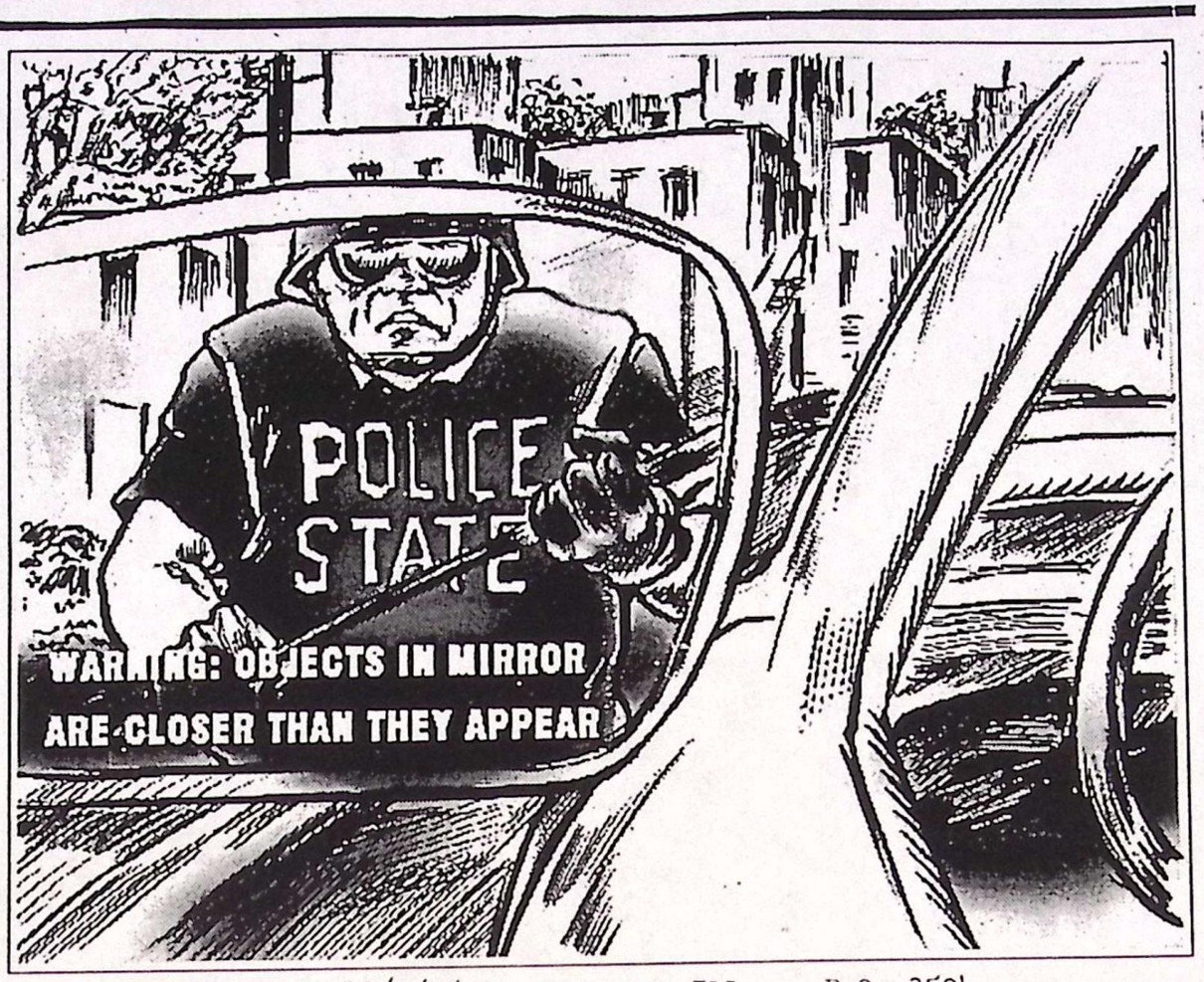
If you have any questions, please contact me. whenever possible, please send me copies of what you have sent, or give me an idea about how many cards, calls, faxes and letters you've been able to generate. Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Kerness

Bonnie Kerness

T/SOR/49/5/2/4



People's Tribune 10/?/95 Chicago, Ill. P.O. 3524

JUSTICE/INJUSTICE

A PROJECT TO BENEFIT THE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6 6-9pm

puffin room - *ART OPENING*
ART AGAINST DEATH: THE ART AND WRITINGS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS with "freeworld"...
Speakers: Leonard Weinglass, Attorney for Mumia Abu-Jamal; Mary Taylor, activist to free political prisoners
Poets: Hon. Bruce Wright, CVGSheba, Bob Holman
Artists: Leon Golub, Nancy Spero, Howardena Pindell, Marina Gutierrez, Mel Edwards, Jerry Kearns, Kiki Smith, Lloyd Oxendine, Arlan Huang, Juan Sanchez, Kamran Ashtary, Irving Epstein, Juane Quick-To-See Smith

THURSDAY OCTOBER 12 8:30-10:30pm

puffin room - POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.
Panelists: CVGSheba, Black Panther Newspaper Committee; former prisoner of war
Alan Berkman, M.D., former political prisoner
Herman and Betty Liveright, coordinators of *This Just In...*, Bulletin for News of Political Prisoners and POWs
Richie Perez, ex-Young Lord; National Coordinator for the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15 3-6pm

NUYORICAN POETS CAFE - *ART OPENING*
ART AGAINST DEATH: THE ART AND WRITINGS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS with "freeworld"...
Speakers: Ramona Africa, MOVE, former political prisoner; Mary Taylor, activist to free political prisoners
Musician: Joseph Jarman
Poets: Hettie Jones, Fielding Dawson, CVGSheba, Sandra Maria Esteves
Visual arts project funded in memory of Alicia Wilkes

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19 8:30-10:30pm

puffin room - CONFRONTING THE DEATH PENALTY
Panelists: Lawrence Hayes, M.P.S., former death row prisoner, anti-death penalty advocate
Chuck Culhane, former death row prisoner, poet, teacher
Leonard Weinglass, Attorney for Mumia Abu-Jamal
Linda Thurston, Director, Amnesty International USA Program to Abolish the Death Penalty
Demi McGuire, Executive Director, New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty
Robert Meeropol, Executive Director, Rosenberg Fund for Children; son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg
Ronald Tabak, President, New York Lawyers Against the Death Penalty

THURSDAY OCTOBER 26 8:30-10:30pm

puffin room - WOMEN IN PRISON
Panelists: Rev. Connie M. Baugh, national campaign organizer of Mothers In Prison, Children in Crisis
Vivian, former incarcerated mother
Nieves Ayress, former political prisoner, Chile
Natalie Bimel, Director, Health Link, Hunter College Center on AIDS, Drugs and Community Health

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2 8:30-10:30pm

puffin room - THE "WAR ON CRIME": THE POLITICS OF INCARCERATION
Panelists: Hon. Bruce Wright, New York State Supreme Court Justice, retired; author of *Black Robes, White Justice*
Richard Stratton, Editor-in-Chief *Prison Life* magazine; writer, former prisoner
Eddie Ellis, former Black Panther and political prisoner; Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
Bonnie Kerness, M.S.W., Coordinator, National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons; Assoc. Dir., A.F.S.C. of NJ

Moderators: Safiya Bukhari, WBAI Radio; Chair, NY Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition
Sally O'Brien, WBAI Radio, journalist

JUSTICE/INJUSTICE organized and curated by Lisa Fromartz and Ronald Hunnings
Donation $5 • Reservations Recommended for Panels 212•343•2881

puffin room • 435 Broome St. (Bdway), NYC 10013 Gallery Hours: Wed.-Sun. 12-6pm 212•343•28
NUYORICAN POETS CAFE • 236 E 3 St. (B & C), NYC 10009 Gallery Hours by Appointment 212•505•81

The least controversial observation that one can make about the U.S. criminal justice system is that it is remarkably ineffective, absurdly expensive, grossly inhumane, and riddled with racism. The beating of Rodney King and the OJ trial are a reminder of the ruthlessness and racism that characterize many big city police departments. Our sentencing practices have led to the imprisonment of over one and a half million people, with another 3 and a half million under other forms of social control. It should not come as any surprise that the greatest percentage of people that end up in our prisons, are people of color.

For the last 20 years I have been a human rights advocate in the prison movement. It has become glaringly clear to me that, just as there were economic and political functions of slavery, so are there economic and political function of prisons. I don't believe it is any accident that the overall crime rate according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics between 1980 and 1990, remained stable while the overall imprisonment rate went up 112%. Nor do I believe it's any accident that youth of color are being fed into the prison system through the cooperation of the police and the court systems. Imprisonment rates for Black people are about 7.4 times higher than for white folks, with one out of every 3 males of Afikan decent under some form of social control. Depending upon geographic location between 65 and 85% of those the US imprisons are people of color, with our rate of imprisonment of people of African decent being higher than that in the formerly white supremacist country of South Africa. To me, perhaps the only thing more startling than the data about who is in prison and for what, is the impotence of the data. Academicians, criminal justice personnel, advocates and people of color all understand clearly that there is no statistical correlation between crime and imprisonment rates. We also all understand clearly that the criminal justice system actually does work - it works as a matter of both economic and political policy.

Prisons are one of the largest growth industries in the US at this time. Let's take a look at the economics of these houses of pain, as the prisoners call them. We live in an age of automation which does not generate new opportunities for manual work, as technology replaces muscle and nominal skills. Our males of color - most of whom were brought here for the express purpose of labor - have now become useless to the economy of automation. Black males have moved out of a historical state of oppression into one of uselessness in the economic context in this country. They have been discarded as a waste product of the technological revolution, with illegal drugs turning Ghettoized Blacks into virtual invalids just as alcohol was introduced to incapacitate the people of the Native Nations.

I no longer believe that it is by accident that people who are perceived of as economic liabilities have been turned into a major economic asset - for the young male of color who is worth less than nothing in this current economy is suddenly worth over 30 thousand dollars a year once in the so called "justice" system. Nor do I believe it is any accident that this technological revolution has been accompanied by the largest explosion of building prisons in the history of the world. The number of people currently imprisoned in this country in jails and prisons is greater than the number of people who live in 13 states. You can't ignore that the expansion of prisons, parole, probation, the court and police systems has resulted in an enormous bureaucracy with many parasitic defenders. The expansion of the prison system in this country has been a boon to everyone from architects, plumbers and electricians to food vendors, all with one thing in common, a gourmet paycheck earned off the backs of males of color. When I wrote one of my prisoner mentors about speaking here, he noted that just like every welfare kid that's processed

through the welfare system puts food on the table for innumerable counselors, investigators, clerk typists, administrators, accountants, etc., so now this grown up kid is picked over by guards, counselors, administrators, clerk typists and so on - all so they can send their own kids to college. The vested interest of these bureaucracies is intense and well organized. And with the full cooperation of politicians and the media, the public is being sold a "War on Crime" and a "War on Drugs" as the cure for the constantly hawked, yet non-existent rising rate of crime. It is still incredible to me that this country has entire towns where the sole industry is prisons. The prison system spends $74 billion dollars a year. There are a lot of mostly white folks getting paid a lot of money for containing mostly folks of color in cages in human warehouses.

Just as there are economic functions for prisons, so are there political ones. In 1978, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, stated that US prisons held "hundreds, maybe thousands of people I would categorize as political prisoners".The outcry from the government was deafening and Mr. Young was forced to retract his statement. Mr. Young was right. There were then, and there are now, political prisoners held in US prisons.

If you are a young, male of African decent in this country, if you are poor, should you get arrested your bail will be set so high you become an economic hostage. For you, the phrase, "innocent until proven guilty" has little meaning. You will certainly not get a trial by a jury of your peers. You will be defended by a Public Defender who has a caseload so vast that you cannot possibly be treated as a priority, and finally you will serve a sentence which is 30% longer than a white would serve for the same crime. If you have seen this same thing happen to your father, your uncles, your cousins.....if you look around at the broader picture of what is happening to men, women, youth and children of your nationality, it s not hard to conclude there is genocide being committed. When whites first came to the shores of this country, it is estimated that there were between 10 and 100 million people living here in many great nations. Those natives were the first slaves and the first political prisoners, and the first efforts at the decimation of an entire people through genocide.

The definition of genocide according to the United Nations is: a) the killing of members of a racial or religious group b) the causing of serious bodily hard to members of a particular group c) deliberately inflicting on a group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group and e) forcibly transferring children of that group to another group.

If we use this definition, it is not hard to see how the mass imprisonment that is occurring fits that definition. Coupled with data on high infant mortality, early death of the elderly of color, lack of equitable medical treatment, opportunities and education that is afforded to whites - and the realization becomes more compelling. Many of those who are defined and perceived of as political prisoners grew up in a society they feel oppressed them. In the 60's and 70's youth acted anger in a number of ways....native youth formed the American Indian Movement dedicated to the self determination of their people; Puerto Ricans joined the movement to free the island from US colonialism; white students formed the Students for a Democratic Society, other whites worked in the South in the Civil Rights movement - and the Black Panther Party was born. Many of us watched our peers being killed by government forces during that era, which led to the underground formation of the Black Liberation Army to stop the rash of killings of inner city

youth by police.

The government, in response to this massive outcry against social inequities, developed a Counter Intelligence Program called COINTELPRO, which had as its objective the crippling of the Black Panther Party and other radical forces. Over the years that this directive was being carried out, those participating in the Black Panther Party were indeed targeted for imprisonment and assassination. Many of those young people who weren't murdered during that time were put in prisons across the country - and many now in their 40's and 50's are still there 20 years later. In short, we find that during the past three decades there has been a steady increase in the number of people being imprisoned because of their political views and actions.

While the US continues to deny to the world that there are political prisoners within its border, there is no way to work with prisoners for any length of time without hearing repeatedly of the existence of such people - and the treatment they are singled out for once in prison. Across the nation, we have seen the growing us of sensory deprivation/isolation units for such people and it is this "special" treatment which human rights advocates feel a growing concern about. In its report on US prisons, Human Rights Watch notes that "perhaps the most troubling aspect of the human right situation in US prisons is a trend...that could be labelled "Marionization". They talk about confinement administered by prison officials without independent supervision to these "prisons within prisons" which violate the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. These units are an outgrowth of behavior modification theory and are part of a systematic effort to destroy any visible signs of political resistance. The units, called control units, are designed to break the minds of the men and women caged there. If any of you have seen the PBS special called "Through the Wire", you will be familiar with the torture of Susan Rosenberg, Alejandrina Torres and Silvia Baraldini. The courts closed that particular unit permanently but we have hundred of other documented cases in which political people are isolated in these units.

Across the country, if you Afrikanize your name, if you were involved in any progressive political group or action, if you are a militant Islamic a Black Panther, a member of the Black Liberation Army, or believe in independence for Puerto Rico or autonomy of the First Nations, you may be singled out for solitary confinement in a control unit. You don't have to commit any institutional infraction at all. This is not a punishment. You are placed there simply for who you are and what you believe. The former warden of Marion Penitentiary has been openly quoted as saying that the purpose of a control unit is to control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system and society at large.

Picture the method this country uses to accomplish this. You are placed in a cage in a human warehouse where you will eat, sleep, wash, read, think, and take care of bodily functions. You are there 24 hours a day, day in and day out, year in and year out with no end. The prisoners say that the silence is eerie. There is a steel door between you and the rest of the world. You may be allowed out once every 46 hours for an hour and a half in a concrete yard. You may be allowed one call a day and the call is monitored. Your mail and reading material is censored. If for some reason you have to leave your cell, you are strip searched, which often includes a humiliating anal probe. You are shackled around your waist and handcuffed. You are entirely under the control of prison guards who carry long, black clubs they refer to as "nigger beaters". You remain constantly on the alert for your own mental and physical deterioration.

Some of the people inhabiting these control units across the country are political prisoners, These units also contain social prisoners who have become politicized during the course of their imprisonment, as well as jailhouse lawyers. The treatment and surveillance they endure is worse than inhumane. It is physical and psychological torture. If we dig deeper into the existence of such practices, the political function they serve is inescapable. Police, the courts and the prison system all serve as social control mechanisms. The police are seen as the occupation army of the inner city by many of its residents. Despite what we've been taught in school, it seems freedom of speech is only what is government approved. For political dissidents who are doing and saying things that the government disapproves of, there is no freedom of speech.

Prisons reflect both the structure of a society and the nature of the struggle against that structure. Many of the men and women living in our prisons that I've had the privilege to meet are visionaries for a more just, humane and non-racist society. The government has attempted to build a wall of silence around them, and those of us who speak out on their behalf also come under government surveillance.

The overall situation in the country in terms of the growth of control units, the conditions in them and the number of people being caged in isolation is worsening. The government is telling folks that the new facility in Florence, Colorado is for 400 of the most "predatory" people in the federal prison system. As human rights monitors observing who is being placed there, we know this isn't true. A good portion of that massive concrete prison is being used to try to build that wall of silence around political dissidents.

I want to read you something which was sent to me. It is from a memorandum written by the Investigative Services Unit at Pelican Bay State Prison, a control unit prison in California. In it they are reviewing a prisoners central file, and they comment, "this memorandum refers to subjects correspondence with Bonnie Kerness who acts as a mail drop for prisoners and militant organizations throughout the United States. Some correspondence connects subject with individuals linked to the Weather Underground and the Nation of Islam...two terrorist organizations well noted for their sympathies to overthrow the government and foment violence. The Prison News Service...organized by Bonnie Kerness, as since been identified as the newsletter for the Black Guerilla Family....". That memo goes on for 3 pages with it's mistruths and distortions....my point being, if we don't do something now, they may be coming for anyone of us who dissents politically. The politics of the police, the courts and the prison system is the politics of social control - and it affects every one of us in ways that are a call to action.

Thank you.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP CONTROL UNIT PRISONS

COORDINATOR
Bonnie Kerness

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MONITORING
Christie Donner

POLITICAL ACTION
Nozomi Ikuta

FINANCES
Porter Kirkwood

MEDIA AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS
Pat Clark

REGIONAL
COORDINATORS
Northeast:
Jill Brotman

Southeast:
Kom'boa Ervin

Midwest:
Nancy Kurshan

Northwest:
Corey Weinstein

Southwest:
Edelle Corrine

April 10, 1996

Dear Friend:

Please forgive my delay in getting back to all of you. As you know, February marked the month in which we had asked people from all over the world to write protesting the Management Control Unit (MCU) at Trenton State Prison and the conditions under which Ojore Lutalo and other brothers there are forced to live.

While we have no real idea of just how many letters, cards, calls and faxes of protest went in to Governor Whitman and Commissioner Fauver, just judging from the copies we received, it was close to several hundred. This letter to is thank each of you on behalf of Ojore and all the other brothers housed in that unit. This was our first experience in activating such an International Emergency Response Network, and we are pleased and excited by the results.

Following closely on the heels of the February Campaign are Hearings on control units which we are holding in several places in the country including Chicago, Colorado, California, Ohio, Atlanta and Philadelphia. The one in Philadelphia will be hosting testimony from family members, advocates and current (via written testimony and tape) and ex control unit prisoners. As part of that testimony some of those imprisoned in the MCU have put together the enclosed pamphlet describing their conditions and their assessment of the reasons for control units and their impact. I am enclosing a copy of this pamphlet, along with a Campaign To Stop Control Unit Prisons brochure.

Again, on behalf of Ojore and the other brothers in the MCU, I thank you most deeply for your willingness to help. The spirit of struggle and willingness that each of you shared is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

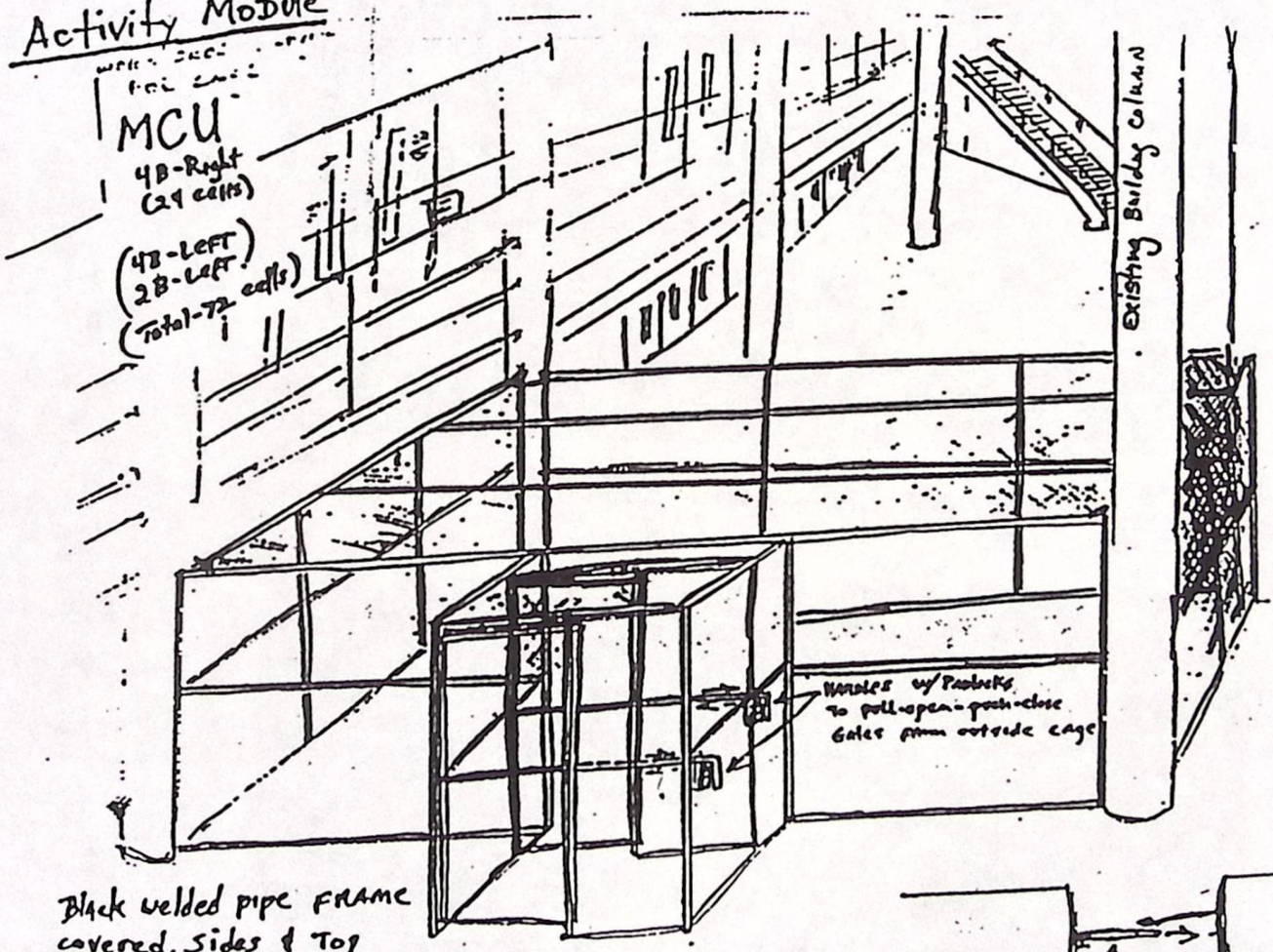
Bonnie Kerness

Bonnie Kerness

972 Broad Street, 6th Floor · Newark, NJ 07102 · (201) 643-3192

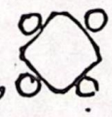
Activity Module

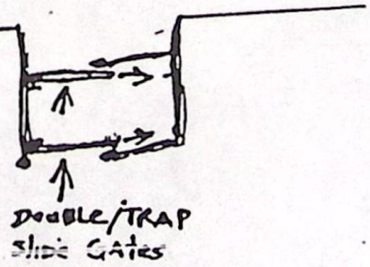
MCU
4B-Right
(24 cells)
(4B-LEFT
2B-LEFT
(Total-72 cells)



Black welded pipe FRAME covered, sides & Top with standard, silver chain Link Fencing
14½' X 14½' Square
7½' High

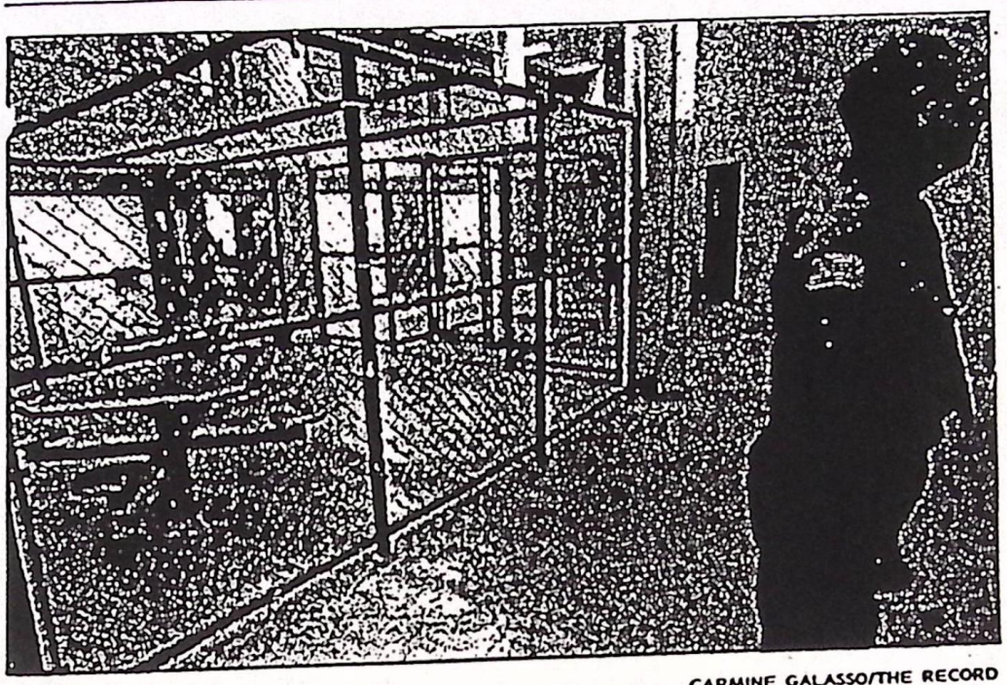
2-4 seat stainless steel TABLES in cage →





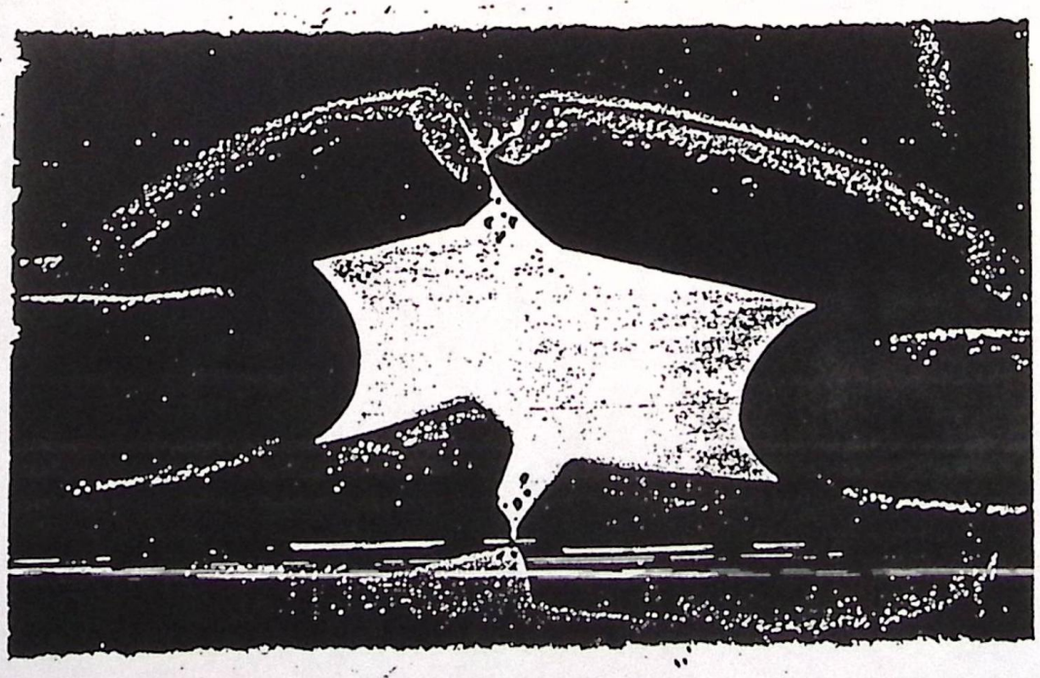
SOCIAL CONTROL & THE POLITICS OF PRISONS !

BREAK THE CHAINS!!!



CARMINE GALASSO/THE RECORD

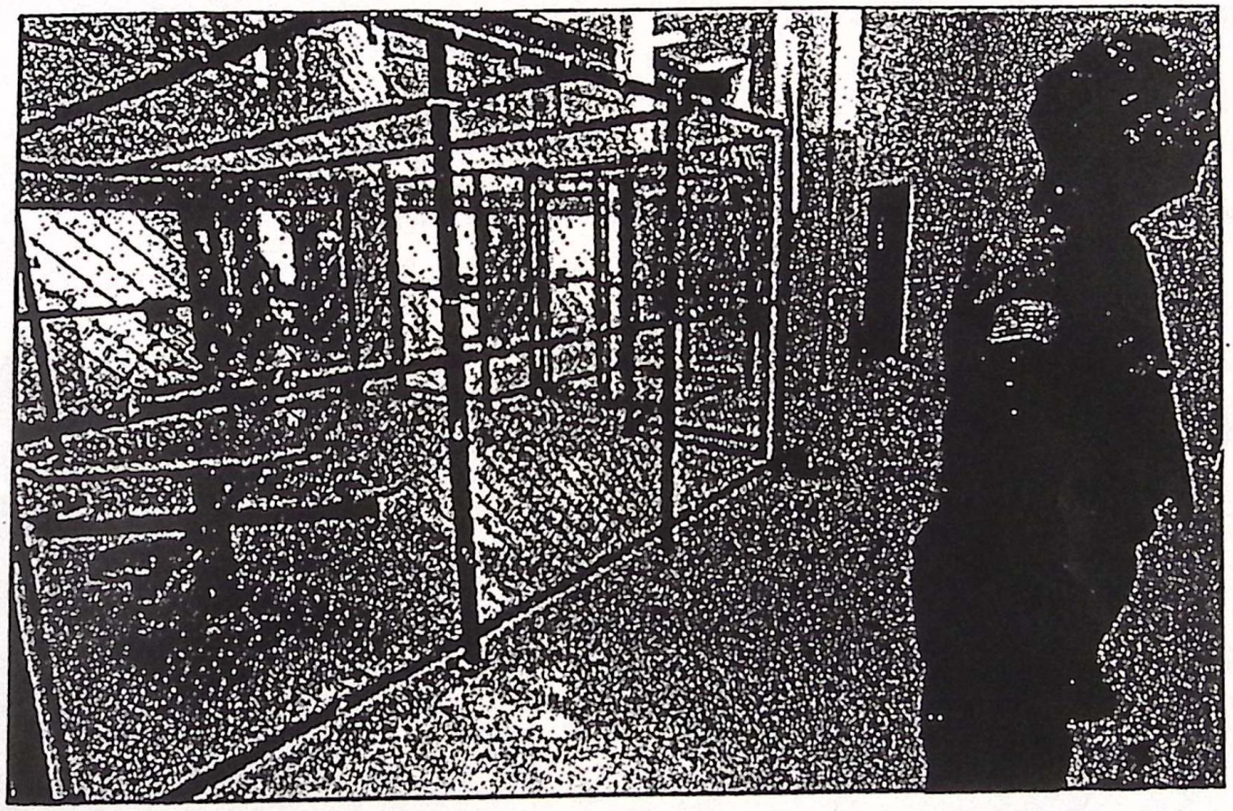
Inmates in solitary confinement refuse to use the "cages" for recreation or meals.



BREAK THE CHAINS!!!

SOCIAL CONTROL & THE POLITICS OF PRISONS !

BREAK THE CHAINS ! ! !



CARMINE GALASSO/THE RECORD

Inmates in solitary confinement refuse to use the "cages" for recreation or meals.

BREAK THE CHAINS ! ! !

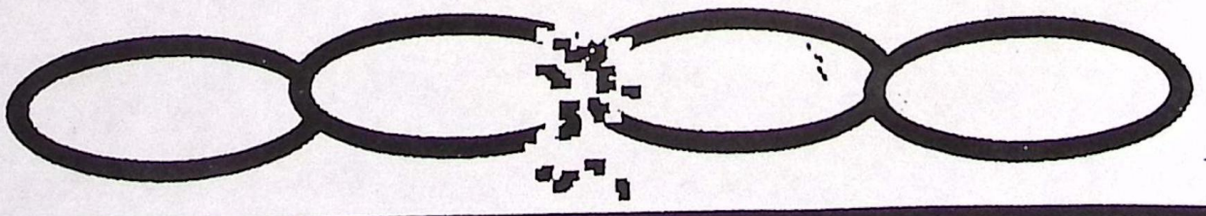


TABLE OF CONTENTS

P. 1 Within The Grip of the MCU by Sundiata Lumumba

P. 3 Control Units - Out of Control by Hatari wa'Haki

P. 5 Commentary by Dharuba Cinque Kalahari

P. 7 Control Unit Society by Daud Obika Tulam

P. 10 We Hold On a poem by Kareen Stovall

P. 11 control init review ... mere formality a poem by gene Jones

P. 12 Commentary by Ojore Nuru Lutalo

P. 14 Sketch of Cage of Ojore Lutalo

P. 16 "N.J. political prisoners do hard time in Solitary" article in "The Record" by Bill Sanderson

P. 19 Control Units: Isolation in 1992

P. 21 "Modules of cages? TSP enclosures stir protest" article in "The Times" by Peter Page

P. 22 Text of a Speech given at The Puffin Room in New York on November 2, 1995

P. 27 Sketch of Management Control Unit tier 4B by Tom Manning

(WITHIN THE GRIP OF MCU)

Upon entering a politico-judicial nightmare and subjected to a noted extraordinary "100 MILLION DOLLARS" cash bail in 1985, i knew that my legal battles would be long and hectic once being extradited from Philadelphia, Pa. to New Jersey to defend myself against a racist onslaught of injustice. But over a decade later (10 1/2 yrs.), after episodes of adjudicated intrigue, being shipped from one prison to another, prevailing and now able to see daylight (release) in the near future, one would surmise that i could at least find some lasting peace of mind? however, that's not the case, since one of the dramatic experience in my life continue to exist; which is thatof my confinement in one of amerikkk'a most repressive control units (New Jersey State Prison's Management Control Unit) for the last five years under fabricated allegation by prison officials. To wit: "This individual has been identified as an active member... and a potential future leader in a radical revolutionary group."

The reality of MCU (a 23 1/2 hr. lock up, with a mere bi-daily 2 hr. outdoor exercise period; weather permitting?) is racially designed to break the mind, body, spirit, and commitment of mostly progressive Blk/Afrikan men of various political and philosophical persuasions, now in the custody of very sadistic racists and house negroes. In turn, and though most captives have remained steadfast, i've witnessed the less committed change their sworn political affiliation and/or Afrikan names back to western (european) standards in attempts to evade placement in MCU. i've also observed some captives travel closer to the edge of insanity, lose touch with reality, attempt suicide, become backbiters, chronic complainers, compulsive disrupters, etc. upon spending years in MCU. In addition, but in less extreme cases, i've witnessed a few captives become apathetic, while others became self-centered, opportunist, egoistic, or a bit zealous in the search for mind altering drugs or other vices. So the bottom line is; not many are left totally unaffected, in one way or another by long term lock down. Even i have become far less tolerant of the aforementioned elements/people.

Therefore, and in spite of newly created regulations to be installed governing MCU placement and stays in New Jersey (See: Harry Pack, et al., vs. Howard Beyer, et al., civil Action No. 91-3709 AET final judgment) the repressive control units throughout amerikkka must be dismantled.

In conclusion; the laws of physics dictate that everything has its opposites. So if there is remotely a positive side of my presence within the grip of MCU, it must be my increased ability to endure hardship, exercise hidden talent, build ongoing discipline, study in depth, grow under pressure, meet soldiers of merit, and turn this nightmare into an unfolding plan awaiting my return to the bigger struggle of my people.

(IN THE SPIRIT OF PAN-AFRIKANISM)

SUNDIATA LUMUMBA
CN-861 #213628
NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON
MANAGEMENT CONTROL UNIT
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTROL UNITS - OUT OF CONTROL

By Hatari wa'Haki

Though the only control unit i ever been in is the one here in New Jersey, the management control unit, i think it's safe to assume that generally, it's no different here than any other control unit in amerikkka. I'm sure that We share the same pain, the same misery, the same suffering, and the same injustices that's inflicted upon control unit prisoners throughout the country; male and female. Therefore, whether you're subjected to a control unit in Lexington, Whether you're subjected to a control unit in Florence, whether you're subjected to a control unit in New York or anywhere else in the country, either on a state (or) federal level, there's very little difference because they all can be traced to one source - the government!

Here in New Jersey, the administration operates under a criterion which gives them broad latitude in determining MCU placements. As a result, you're not placed in MCU for anything you've done, or is accused of doing, but for what you might do, or is capable of doing! In fact, under this criterion, prisoners can be placed in MCU simply for enjoying a certain degree of respect, or for being held in high esteem by their fellow prisoners, because the administration will declare that you have too much influence over the youthful population, and is capable of possibly moving them in directions that the government don't want them to go. The last thing the government want is for prisoners who's eyes are open, to be opening the eyes of those who's eyes were closed - they want them to remain blind so that they can't see what time it is, and what they're doing to Us with their program of genocide. So this is why the administration fights so hard to keep prisoners with politics on the control unit here, and this is why the simple task of enlightening prisoners on subjects such as history, culture and politics is enough to get you thrown in control unit for years.

On a more personal note, on 2-4-86, i, along with 9 other prisoners was rounded up and brought to the management control unit after a prison agent, Edward Robinson, created a clearly unrealistic escape scenario whereas guards was alleged to be killed and/or held hostage, attempted to recruit certain high profiled prisoners that he knew the administration would be interested in because most of Us was on the hot sheet. When his plan was rejected by the prisoners he presented it to, he still went to the investigators and told them the stage was set, and whatever else they wanted to hear. In return, he was almost "immediately" released from the control unit, and given the rewards that was part of the deal.

all of the allegations We were accused of were serious; they were disciplinary infractions as well as indictable offense. Usually, what the administration would do when prisoners violate certain rules is give you disciplinary charges and send you before the prison disciplinary committee to have the charges adjudicated. But, in Our case, this didn't happen, because, had they chosen this process, We would have only been exposed to a year maximum for each charge, and that simply isn't long enough for the administration who don't ever want some of Us in population.

Prior to Us being placed in MCU, as well as after, different groups of White and Latino prisoners were charged with elaborate escape attempts whereas physical evidence such as, in one case, a "cross-bow", allegedly to be used to shoot the tower guard. In all instances, the accused prisoners went thru the normal disciplinary process, and received one year ad. seg. None of them were referred to MCU! The dynamics you have to consider when analyzing the contrasting handling of these cases is not just racial, though that played a part as well, but the main reason they got the kid glove treatment, and Ours was more harsh, is because We were "politico treatment", and still is, because even though 8 of the prisoners that came over with Our crew have been released at some point from the control unit, all but one have been returned to MCU due to the "active MCU list" - a list that all MCU prisoners remain on even after they're released from the control unit, and whenever there's any kind of disturbance in the prison, whether you're involved or not, the prisoners on the active MCU list are the first ones they come for! The only prisoners that are not presently in MCU as a result of the active MCU list, are the ones that has since been shipped out-of-state, from MCU!

There's no doubt that control units are designed for the exact reason the former warden of Marion said they were; to suppress revolutionary tendencies and attitudes.

Freedom or Death!!

Hatari wa'Haki
CN-861 (MCU)
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

CONTROL UNIT SOCIETY

Prisons in themselves are deliberately designed to exclude those convicted and housed in them from the rest of the world. A prisoner's world is a very small place, largely because it's an immobile world. Rarely does the universal world come to anyone, and if you cannot move within that world, the world will not see, hear or recognize you. Therefore, you barely exist.

Prison is about controlling the existence of those confined there. To a greater extent control units are about controlling the behavior of those confined in them. For prisoners in control units, their world is made even smaller than prisoners in general, because control units are prisons within prison. They are used exclusively to isolate select prisoners from the rest of the prison population, viz. political prisoners, prison organizers and activist.

It's often said that to get a greater understanding of society in general, you must look into its prisons. In saying that, it's important to know that control unit prisons are on the rise throughout America. When you parallel that with the following thoughts and observations of control unit advocates and observers, you'll get a better understanding of what the American society is becoming.

A statement made by Dr. Edgar Schein at a meeting of the U.S. wardens and social scientist back in 1962 was done with control units in mind.

He said: "I would like you to think of brain-washing, not
in terms of politics, ethics and morals, but
in terms of the deliberate changing of human behavior
and attitudes by a group of men who have relatively
complete control over the environment in which
the captive populace lives."

Former Congressman, Ralph Metcafe (D. Ill.) made the following observation:

"The control unit treatment program is long-term
punishment under the guise of what is in fact,
psuedo-scientific experimentation."

And, a former warden at the United States Prison at Marion, Illinois, Ralph Aaron, once reportedly made the following statement about Marion's control unit, which was once considered as the prototype control unit for federal prisons throughout

America. He said:

"The purpose of the Marion control unit is to
control revolutionary attitudes in the prison system
and in the society at large."

The intent of control unit prisons is to destabilize the prisoner from family and society, as well as to destabilize them physically, socially, psychologically and individually among themselves. This has been my personal observation in having spent accumulatively 10 years in New Jersey's control unit. Despite this, I'm secure in saying I have not been broken as a consequent. But, I'm real enough to know that i am not immune to the realities of living in a control unit prison. Nonetheless, when you compare those realities with the similarities that loom in society, you may discover that our worlds are more alike than different..Those in society just have a little more room to move in.

In George Orwell's book "1984" he wrote that:
"Whoever controls the image and information of the
past will determine what and how future generations
will think; and, whoever controls the information
and images of the present will also determine
how those same people will view the past."

By 1994, Rupert Murdoch, the media mogul who controls large shares of print and electronic media, stated in effect that his reason for such acquisition is to control the idea of the 21st Century. Moreover, when held in contrast with a perspective that Hebert Aptheker brought forth in his book "American Negro Slave Revolts" we are more inclined to realize Rupert murdoch's assertion. Herbert Aptheker wrote that:

"A ruling class, often subjected to periods of panic
arising from doubt of its ability to maintain its
power, may be expected to develope very complex
and thorough systems of control."

Having now made these observations it's easy to see that control unit prisons reflect on a small scale, the same level of control intended for the greater society. And, if people in general fail to resist the spread of control unit prisons, they may very well end up desensitizing themselves from resisting similar controls that are targeted for society.

If in fact, oppression makes wise people angry, then wise people should struggle against the use of control unit prisons, or foolishly welcome the oppresion that will encompass your own world. The chioce is yours. Oppression anywhere is a threat to fredom everywhere.

DARE TO STRUGGLE!!!

Daud Obika Tulam, 55657
New Jersey State Prison
CN 861-MCU
Trenton, NJ 08625

"WE HOLD ON".

Existing in a vacuum of steel and stone
In a world of suspended animation
Listening to the steady dripping of the minutes
And the tiny splashes they make as they fall into the sea of time
We Hold On
Marching to the beat of a comatose drummer
eagerly anticipating the next stroke of his stick
So we can exhale in a caged meadow
where only innocuous aromas exist
We Hold On
Singled out for the color of our skin
political beliefs and ability to lead
Placed in a prison within a prison
labeled the uncontrollable breed
We Hold On
Borrowing a lesson from our ancestors
constantly fighting for survivals sake
Subsisting to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat
We Hold On .

By Kareem Stovall